

Attachment 5

HOME Investment Partnership Program Regulations (24 CFR 92)

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[Page 551-615]

TITLE 24--HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

PART 92--HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

Subpart A--General

Sec.

92.1 Overview.

92.2 Definitions.

92.4 Waivers and suspension of requirements for disaster areas.

Subpart B--Allocation Formula

92.50 Formula allocation.

Insular Areas Program

92.60 Allocation amounts for insular areas.

92.61 Program description.

92.62 Review of program description and certifications.

92.63 Amendments to program description.

92.64 Applicability of requirements to insular areas.

92.65 Funding sanctions.

92.66 Reallocation.

**Subpart C--Consortia; Designation and Revocation of Designation as a
Participating Jurisdiction**

92.100 [Reserved]

92.101 Consortia.

92.102 Participation threshold amount.

92.103 Notification of intent to participate.

92.104 Submission of a consolidated plan.

92.105 Designation as a participating jurisdiction.

92.106 Continuous designation as a participating jurisdiction.

92.107 Revocation of designation as a participating jurisdiction.

Subpart D--Submission Requirements

92.150 Submission requirements.

Subpart E--Program Requirements

92.200 Private-public partnership.

92.201 Distribution of assistance.

92.202 Site and neighborhood standards.

92.203 Income determinations.

92.204 Applicability of requirements to entities that receive a
reallocation of HOME funds, other than participating
jurisdictions.

Eligible and Prohibited Activities

- 92.205 Eligible activities: General.
- 92.206 Eligible project costs.
- 92.207 Eligible administrative and planning costs.
- 92.208 Eligible community housing development organization (CHDO) operating expense and capacity building costs.
- 92.209 Tenant-based rental assistance: Eligible costs and requirements.
- 92.212 Pre-award costs.
- 92.213 [Reserved]
- 92.214 Prohibited activities.
- 92.215 Limitation on jurisdictions under court order.

Income Targeting

- 92.216 Income targeting: Tenant-based rental assistance and rental units.
- 92.217 Income targeting: Homeownership.

Matching Contribution Requirement

- 92.218 Amount of matching contribution.
- 92.219 Recognition of matching contribution.
- 92.220 Form of matching contribution.
- 92.221 Match credit.
- 92.222 Reduction of matching contribution requirement.

Subpart F--Project Requirements

- 92.250 Maximum per-unit subsidy amount and subsidy layering.
- 92.251 Property standards.
- 92.252 Qualification as affordable housing: Rental housing.
- 92.253 Tenant and participant protections.
- 92.254 Qualification as affordable housing: Homeownership.
- 92.255 Converting rental units to homeownership units for existing tenants.
- 92.256 [Reserved]
- 92.257 Religious organizations.
- 92.258 Elder cottage housing opportunity (ECHO) units.

Subpart G--Community Housing Development Organizations

- 92.300 Set-aside for community housing development organizations (CHDOs).
- 92.301 Project-specific assistance to community housing development organizations.
- 92.302 Housing education and organizational support.
- 92.303 Tenant participation plan.

Subpart H--Other Federal Requirements

- 92.350 Other Federal requirements and nondiscrimination.
- 92.351 Affirmative marketing; minority outreach program.
- 92.352 Environmental review.
- 92.353 Displacement, relocation, and acquisition.
- 92.354 Labor.
- 92.355 Lead-based paint.
- 92.356 Conflict of interest.
- 92.357 Executive Order 12372.
- 92.358 Consultant activities.

Subpart I--Technical Assistance

92.400 Coordinated Federal support for housing strategies.

Subpart J--Reallocations

92.450 General.

92.451 Reallocation of HOME funds from a jurisdiction that is not designated a participating jurisdiction or has its designation revoked.

92.452 Reallocation of community housing development organization set-aside.

92.453 Competitive reallocations.

92.454 Reallocations by formula.

Subpart K--Program Administration

92.500 The HOME Investment Trust Fund.

92.501 HOME Investment Partnership Agreement.

92.502 Program disbursement and information system.

92.503 Program income, repayments, and recaptured funds.

92.504 Participating jurisdiction responsibilities; written agreements; on-site inspections.

92.505 Applicability of uniform administrative requirements.

92.506 Audit.

92.507 Closeout.

92.508 Recordkeeping.

92.509 Performance reports.

Subpart L--Performance Reviews and Sanctions

92.550 Performance reviews.

92.551 Corrective and remedial actions.

92.552 Notice and opportunity for hearing; sanctions.

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Subpart A--General

Sec. 92.1 Overview.

This part implements the HOME Investment Partnerships Act (the HOME Investment Partnerships Program). In general, under the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, HUD allocates funds by formula among eligible State and local governments to strengthen public-private partnerships and to expand the supply of decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing, with primary attention to rental housing, for very low-income and low-income families. Generally, HOME funds must be matched by nonfederal resources. State and local governments that become participating jurisdictions may use HOME funds to carry out multi-year housing strategies through acquisition, rehabilitation, and new construction of housing, and tenant-based rental assistance. Participating jurisdictions may provide assistance in a number of eligible forms, including loans, advances, equity investments, interest subsidies and other forms of investment that HUD approves.

Sec. 92.2 Definitions.

The terms ``1937 Act'', ``ALJ'', ``Fair Housing Act'', ``HUD'', ``Indian Housing Authority (IHA)'', ``Public Housing Agency (PHA)'', and ``Secretary'' are defined in 24 CFR 5.100.

Act means the HOME Investment Partnerships Act at title II of the

Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 12701 et seq.

Adjusted income. See Sec. 92.203.

Annual income. See Sec. 92.203.

Certification shall have the meaning provided in section 104(21) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 12704.

Commitment means:

(1) The participating jurisdiction has executed a legally binding agreement with a State recipient, a subrecipient or a contractor to use a specific amount of HOME funds to produce affordable housing or provide tenant-based rental assistance; or has executed a written agreement reserving a specific amount of funds to a community housing development organization; or has met the requirements to commit to a specific local project, as defined in paragraph (2), of this definition.

(2) Commit to a specific local project means:

(i) If the project consists of rehabilitation or new construction (with or without acquisition) the participating jurisdiction (or State recipient or subrecipient) and project owner have executed a written legally binding agreement under which HOME assistance will be provided to the owner for an identifiable project under which construction can reasonably be expected to start within twelve months of the agreement date. If the project is owned by the participating jurisdiction or State recipient, the project has been set up in the disbursement and information system established by HUD, and construction can reasonably be expected to start within twelve months of the project set-up date.

(ii)(A) If the project consists of acquisition of standard housing and the participating jurisdiction (or State recipient or subrecipient) is acquiring the property with HOME funds, the participating jurisdiction (or State recipient or subrecipient) and the property owner have executed a legally binding contract for sale of an identifiable property and the property title will be transferred to the participating jurisdiction (or State recipient or subrecipient) within six months of the date of the contract.

(B) If the project consists of acquisition of standard housing and the participating jurisdiction (or State recipient or subrecipient) is providing HOME funds to a family to acquire single family housing for homeownership or to a purchaser to acquire rental housing, the participating jurisdiction (or State recipient or subrecipient) and the family or purchaser have executed a written agreement under which HOME assistance will be provided for the purchase of the single family housing or rental housing and the property title will be transferred to the family or purchaser within six months of the agreement date.

(iii) If the project consists of tenant-based rental assistance, the participating jurisdiction (or State recipient, or subrecipient) has entered into a rental assistance contract with the owner or the tenant in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 92.209.

Community housing development organization means a private nonprofit organization that:

(1) Is organized under State or local laws;

(2) Has no part of its net earnings inuring to the benefit of any member, founder, contributor, or individual;

(3) Is neither controlled by, nor under the direction of, individuals or entities seeking to derive profit or gain from the organization. A community housing development organization may be sponsored or created by a for-profit entity, but:

(i) The for-profit entity may not be an entity whose primary purpose is the development or management of housing, such as a builder, developer, or real estate management firm.

(ii) The for-profit entity may not have the right to appoint more than one-third of the membership of the organization's governing body. Board members appointed by the for-profit

entity may not appoint the remaining two-thirds of the board members; and

(iii) The community housing development organization must be free to contract for goods and services from vendors of its own choosing;

(4) Has a tax exemption ruling from the Internal Revenue Service under section 501(c) (3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1);

(5) Does not include a public body (including the participating jurisdiction). An organization that is State or locally chartered may qualify as a community housing development organization; however, the State or local government may not have the right to appoint more than one-third of the membership of the organization's governing body and no more than one-third of the board members may be public officials or employees of the participating jurisdiction or State recipient. Board members appointed by the State or local government may not appoint the remaining two-thirds of the board members;

(6) Has standards of financial accountability that conform to 24 CFR 84.21, "Standards for Financial Management Systems;"

(7) Has among its purposes the provision of decent housing that is affordable to low-income and moderate-income persons, as evidenced in its charter, articles of incorporation, resolutions or by-laws;

(8) Maintains accountability to low-income community residents by:

(i) Maintaining at least one-third of its governing board's membership for residents of low-income neighborhoods, other low-income community residents, or elected representative of low-income neighborhood organizations. For urban areas, "community" may be a neighborhood or neighborhoods, city, county or metropolitan area; for rural areas, it may be a neighborhood or neighborhoods, town, village, county, or multi-county area (but not the entire State); and

(ii) Providing a formal process for low-income program beneficiaries to advise the organization in its decisions regarding the design, siting, development, and management of affordable housing;

(9) Has a demonstrated capacity for carrying out activities assisted with HOME funds. An organization may satisfy this requirement by hiring experienced key staff members who have successfully completed similar projects, or a consultant with the same type of experience and a plan to train appropriate key staff members of the organization; and

(10) Has a history of serving the community within which housing to be assisted with HOME funds is to be located. In general, an organization must be able to show one year of serving the community before HOME funds are reserved for the organization. However, a newly created organization formed by local churches, service organizations or neighborhood organizations may meet this requirement by demonstrating that its parent organization has at least a year of serving the community.

Family has the same meaning given that term in 24 CFR 5.403.

HOME funds means funds made available under this part through allocations and reallocations, plus program income.

Homeownership means ownership in fee simple title or a 99 year leasehold interest in a one- to four-unit dwelling or in a condominium unit, or equivalent form of ownership approved by HUD. The ownership interest may be subject only to the restrictions on resale required under Sec. 92.254(a); mortgages, deeds of trust, or other liens or instruments securing debt on the property as approved by the participating jurisdiction; or any other restrictions or encumbrances that do not impair the good and marketable nature of title to the ownership interest. For purposes of the insular areas, homeownership includes leases of 40 years or more. The participating jurisdiction must determine whether or not ownership or membership in a cooperative or mutual housing project constitutes homeownership under State law.

Household means one or more persons occupying a housing unit.

Housing includes manufactured housing and manufactured housing lots, permanent housing for disabled homeless persons, transitional housing, single-room occupancy housing, and group

homes. Housing also includes elder cottage housing opportunity (ECHO) units that are small, free-standing, barrier-free, energy-efficient, removable, and designed to be installed adjacent to existing single-family dwellings. Housing does not include emergency shelters (including shelters for disaster victims) or facilities such as nursing homes, convalescent homes, hospitals, residential treatment facilities, correctional facilities and student dormitories.

Insular areas means Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

Jurisdiction means a State or unit of general local government.

Low-income families means families whose annual incomes do not exceed 80 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 80 percent of the median for the area on the basis of HUD findings that such variations are necessary because of prevailing levels of construction costs or fair market rents, or unusually high or low family incomes.

Metropolitan city has the meaning given the term in 24 CFR 570.3.

Neighborhood means a geographic location designated in comprehensive plans, ordinances, or other local documents as a neighborhood, village, or similar geographical designation that is within the boundary but does not encompass the entire area of a unit of general local government; except that if the unit of general local government has a population under 25,000, the neighborhood may, but need not, encompass the entire area of a unit of general local government.

Participating jurisdiction means a jurisdiction (as defined in this section) that has been so designated by HUD in accordance with Sec. 92.105.

Person with disabilities means a household composed of one or more persons, at least one of whom is an adult, who has a disability.

(1) A person is considered to have a disability if the person has a physical, mental, or emotional impairment that:

- (i) Is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration;
 - (ii) Substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently;
- and

(iii) Is of such a nature that such ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions.

(2) A person will also be considered to have a disability if he or she has a developmental disability, which is a severe, chronic disability that:

(i) Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;

(ii) Is manifested before the person attains age 22;

(iii) Is likely to continue indefinitely;

(iv) Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency; and

(v) Reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment, or other services that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this definition, the term "person with disabilities" includes two or more persons with disabilities living together, one or more such persons living with another person who is determined to be important to their care or well-being, and the surviving member or members of any household described in the first sentence of this definition who were living, in a unit assisted with HOME funds, with the deceased member of the household

at the time of his or her death.

Program income means gross income received by the participating jurisdiction, State recipient, or a subrecipient directly generated from the use of HOME funds or matching contributions. When program income is generated by housing that is only partially assisted with HOME funds or matching funds, the income shall be prorated to reflect the percentage of HOME funds used. Program income includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- (1) Proceeds from the disposition by sale or long-term lease of real property acquired, rehabilitated, or constructed with HOME funds or matching contributions;
- (2) Gross income from the use or rental of real property, owned by the participating jurisdiction, State recipient, or a subrecipient, that was acquired, rehabilitated, or constructed, with HOME funds or matching contributions, less costs incidental to generation of the income;
- (3) Payments of principal and interest on loans made using HOME funds or matching contributions;
- (4) Proceeds from the sale of loans made with HOME funds or matching contributions;
- (5) Proceeds from the sale of obligations secured by loans made with HOME funds or matching contributions;
- (6) Interest earned on program income pending its disposition; and
- (7) Any other interest or return on the investment permitted under Sec. 92.205(b) of HOME funds or matching contributions.

Project means a site or sites together with any building (including a manufactured housing unit) or buildings located on the site(s) that are under common ownership, management, and financing and are to be assisted with HOME funds as a single undertaking under this part. The project includes all the activities associated with the site and building. For tenant-based rental assistance, project means assistance to one or more families.

Project completion means that all necessary title transfer requirements and construction work have been performed; the project complies with the requirements of this part (including the property standards under Sec. 92.251); the final drawdown has been disbursed for the project; and the project completion information has been entered in the disbursement and information system established by HUD. For tenant-based rental assistance, project completion means the final drawdown has been disbursed for the project.

Reconstruction means the rebuilding, on the same lot, of housing standing on a site at the time of project commitment. The number of housing units on the lot may not be decreased or increased as part of a reconstruction project, but the number of rooms per unit may be increased or decreased. Reconstruction also includes replacing an existing substandard unit of manufactured housing with a new or standard unit of manufactured housing. Reconstruction is rehabilitation for purposes of this part.

Single room occupancy (SRO) housing means housing (consisting of single room dwelling units) that is the primary residence of its occupant or occupants. The unit must contain either food preparation or sanitary facilities (and may contain both) if the project consists of new construction, conversion of non-residential space, or reconstruction. For acquisition or rehabilitation of an existing residential structure or hotel, neither food preparation nor sanitary facilities are required to be in the unit. If the units do not contain sanitary facilities, the building must contain sanitary facilities that are shared by tenants.

State means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any agency or instrumentality thereof that is established pursuant to legislation and designated by the chief executive officer to act on behalf of the State with regard to the provisions of this part.

State recipient. See Sec. 92.201(b)(2).

Subrecipient means a public agency or nonprofit organization selected by the participating jurisdiction to administer all or a portion of the participating jurisdiction's HOME program. A public agency or nonprofit organization that receives HOME funds solely as a developer or owner of housing is not a subrecipient. The participating jurisdiction's selection of a subrecipient is not subject to the procurement procedures and requirements.

Tenant-based rental assistance is a form of rental assistance in which the assisted tenant may move from a dwelling unit with a right to continued assistance. Tenant-based rental assistance under this part also includes security deposits for rental of dwelling units.

Transitional housing means housing that:

(1) Is designed to provide housing and appropriate supportive services to persons, including (but not limited to) deinstitutionalized individuals with disabilities, homeless individuals with disabilities, and homeless families with children; and

(2) Has as its purpose facilitating the movement of individuals and families to independent living within a time period that is set by the participating jurisdiction or project owner before occupancy.

Unit of general local government means a city, town, township, county, parish, village, or other general purpose political subdivision of a State; a consortium of such political subdivisions recognized by HUD in accordance with Sec. 92.101; and any agency or instrumentality thereof that is established pursuant to legislation and designated by the chief executive to act on behalf of the jurisdiction with regard to provisions of this part. When a county is an urban county, the urban county is the unit of general local government for purposes of the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.

Urban county has the meaning given the term in 24 CFR 570.3.

Very low-income families means low-income families whose annual incomes do not exceed 50 percent of the median family income for the area, as determined by HUD with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 50 percent of the median for the area on the basis of HUD findings that such variations are necessary because of prevailing levels of construction costs or fair market rents, or unusually high or low family incomes.

Sec. 92.4 Waivers and suspension of requirements for disaster areas.

HUD's authority for waiver of regulations and for the suspension of requirements to address damage in a Presidentially declared disaster area is described in 24 CFR 5.110 and in section 290 of the Act, respectively.

Subpart B--Allocation Formula

Sec. 92.50 Formula allocation.

(a) Jurisdictions eligible for a formula allocation. HUD will provide allocations of funds in amounts determined by the formula described in this section to units of general local governments that, as of the end of the previous fiscal year, are metropolitan cities, urban counties, or consortia approved under Sec. 92.101; and States.

(b) Amounts available for allocation; State and local share. The amount of funds that are available for allocation by the formula under this section is equal to the balance of funds remaining after reserving amounts for Indian tribes, insular areas, housing education and organizational support, other support for State and local housing strategies, and other purposes authorized by Congress, in accordance with the Act and appropriations.

(c) Formula factors. The formula for determining allocations uses

the following factors. The first and sixth factors are weighted 0.1; the other four factors are weighted 0.2.

(1) Vacancy-adjusted rental units where the household head is at or below the poverty level. These rental units are multiplied by the ratio of the national rental vacancy rate over a jurisdiction's rental vacancy rate.

(2) Occupied rental units with at least one of four problems (overcrowding, incomplete kitchen facilities, incomplete plumbing, or high rent costs). Overcrowding is a condition that exists if there is more than one person per room occupying the unit. Incomplete kitchen facilities means the unit lacks a sink with running water, a range, or a refrigerator. Incomplete plumbing means the unit lacks hot and cold piped water, a flush toilet, or a bathtub or shower inside the unit for the exclusive use of the occupants of the unit. High rent costs occur when more than 30 percent of household income is used for rent.

(3) Rental units built before 1950 occupied by poor families.

(4) Rental units described in paragraph (c)(2) of this section multiplied by the ratio of the cost of producing housing for a jurisdiction divided by the national cost.

(5) Number of families at or below the poverty level.

(6) Population of a jurisdiction multiplied by a net per capita income (pci). To compute net pci for a jurisdiction or for the nation, the pci of a three person family at the poverty threshold is subtracted from the pci of the jurisdiction or of the nation. The index is constructed by dividing the national net pci by the net pci of a jurisdiction.

(d) Calculating formula allocations for units of general local government. (1) Initial allocation amounts for units of general local government described in paragraph (a) of this section are determined by multiplying the sum of the shares of the six factors in paragraph (c) of this section by 60 percent of the amount available under paragraph (b) of this section for formula allocation. The shares are the ratio of the weighted factor for each jurisdiction over the corresponding factor for the total for all of these units of general local government.

(2) If any of the initial amounts for such units of general local government in Puerto Rico exceeds twice the national average, on a per rental unit basis, that amount is capped at twice the national average.

(3) To determine the maximum number of units of general local government that receive a formula allocation, only one jurisdiction (the unit of general local government with the smallest allocation of HOME funds) is dropped from the pool of eligible jurisdictions on each successive recalculation. Then the amount of funds available for units of general local government is redistributed to all others. This recalculation/redistribution continues until all remaining units of general local government receive an allocation of \$500,000 or more. Only units of general local government which receive an allocation of \$500,000 or more under the formula will be awarded an allocation. In fiscal years in which Congress appropriates less than \$1.5 billion of HOME funds, \$335,000 is substituted for \$500,000.

(4) The allocation amounts determined under paragraph (d)(3) of this section are reduced by any amounts that are necessary to provide increased allocations to States that have no unit of general local government receiving a formula allocation (see paragraph (e)(4) of this section). These reductions are made on a prorata basis, except that no unit of general local government allocation is reduced below \$500,000 (or \$335,000 in fiscal years in which Congress appropriates less than \$1.5 billion of HOME funds).

(e) Calculating formula allocations for States. (1) Forty percent of the funds available for allocation under paragraph (b) of this section are allocated to States. The allocation amounts for States are calculated by determining initial amounts for each State, based on the sum of the shares of the six factors. For 20 percent of the funds to be

allocated to States, the shares are the ratio of the weighted factor for the entire State over the corresponding factor for the total for all States. For 80 percent of the funds to be allocated to States, the shares are the ratio of the weighted factor for all units of general local government within the State that do not receive a formula allocation over the corresponding factor for the total for all States.

(2) If the initial amounts for Puerto Rico (based on either or both the 80 percent of funds or 20 percent of funds calculation) exceed twice the national average, on a per rental unit basis, each amount that exceeds the national average is capped at twice the national average, and the resultant funds are reallocated to other States on a prorata basis.

(3) If the initial amounts when combined for any State are less than the \$3,000,000, the allocation to that State is increased to the \$3,000,000 and all other State allocations are reduced by an equal amount on a prorata basis, except that no State allocation is reduced below \$3,000,000.

(4) The allocation amount for each State that has no unit of general local government within the State receiving an allocation under paragraph (d) of this section is increased by \$500,000. Funds for this increase are derived from the funds available for units of general local government, in accordance with paragraph (d)(4) of this section.

[61 FR 48750, Sept. 16, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 28928, May 28, 1997]

Insular Areas Program

Sec. 92.60 Allocation amounts for insular areas.

(a) Initial allocation amount for each insular area. The initial allocation amount for each insular area is determined based upon the insular area's population and occupied rental units compared to all insular areas.

(b) Threshold requirements. The HUD Field Office shall review each insular area's progress on outstanding allocations made under this section, based on the insular area's performance report, the timeliness of close-outs, and compliance with fund management requirements and regulations, taking into consideration the size of the allocation and the degree and complexity of the program. If HUD determines from this review that the insular area does not have the capacity to administer effectively a new allocation, or a portion of a new allocation, in addition to allocations currently under administration, HUD may reduce the insular area's initial allocation amount.

(c) Previous audit findings and outstanding monetary obligations. HUD shall not make an allocation to an insular area that has either an outstanding audit finding for any HUD program, or an outstanding monetary obligation to HUD that is in arrears, or for which a repayment schedule has not been established. This restriction does not apply if the HUD Field Office finds that the insular area has made a good faith effort to clear the audit and, when there is an outstanding monetary obligation to HUD, the insular area has made a satisfactory arrangement for repayment of the funds due HUD and payments are current.

(d) Increases to the initial allocation amount. If funds reserved for the insular areas are available because HUD has decreased the amount for one or more insular areas in accordance with paragraphs (b) or (c) of this section, or for any other reason, HUD may increase the allocation amount for one or more of the remaining insular areas based upon the insular area's performance in committing HOME funds within the 24 month deadline, producing housing units described in its program description, and meeting HOME program requirements. Funds that become available but which are not used to increase the allocation amount for

one or more of the remaining insular areas will be reallocated in accordance with Sec. 92.66.

(e) Notice of allocation amounts. HUD will notify each insular area, in writing, as to the amount of its HOME allocation.

Sec. 92.61 Program description.

(a) Submission requirement. Not later than 90 days after HUD notifies the insular area of the amount of its allocation, the insular area must submit a program description and certifications to HUD.

(b) Content of program description. The program description must contain the following:

- (1) An executed Standard Form 424;
- (2) The estimated use of HOME funds and a description of projects and eligible activities, including number of units to be assisted, estimated costs, and tenure type (rental or owner occupied) and, for tenant assistance, number of households to be assisted;
- (3) A timetable for the implementation of the projects or eligible activities;
- (4) If the insular area intends to use HOME funds for homebuyers, the guidelines for resale or recapture as required in Sec. 92.254(a)(5);
- (5) If the insular area intends to use HOME funds for tenant-based rental assistance, a description of how the program will be administered consistent with the minimum guidelines described in Sec. 92.209;
- (6) If an insular area intends to use other forms of investment not described in Sec. 92.205(b), a description of the other forms of investment;
- (7) A statement of the policy and procedures to be followed by the insular area to meet the requirements for affirmative marketing, and establishing and overseeing a minority and women business outreach program under Sec. 92.351;
- (8) If the insular area intends to use HOME funds for refinancing along with rehabilitation, the insular area's guidelines described in Sec. 92.206(b).

(c) Certifications. The following certifications must accompany the program description:

- (1) A certification that, before committing funds to a project, the insular area will evaluate the project in accordance with guidelines that it adopts for this purpose and will not invest any more HOME funds in combination with other governmental assistance than is necessary to provide affordable housing;
- (2) If the insular area intends to provide tenant-based rental assistance, the certification required by Sec. 92.209;
- (3) A certification that the submission of the program description is authorized under applicable law and the insular area possesses the legal authority to carry out the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, in accordance with the HOME regulations;
- (4) A certification that it will comply with the acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, implementing regulations at 49 CFR part 24 and the requirements of Sec. 92.353;
- (5) A certification that the insular area will use HOME funds in compliance with all requirements of this part;
- (6) The certification with regard to the drug-free workplace required by 24 CFR part 24, subpart F; and
- (7) The certification required with regard to lobbying required by 24 CFR part 87, together with disclosure forms, if required by 24 CFR part 87.

Sec. 92.62 Review of program description and certifications.

- (a) Review of program description. The responsible HUD Field Office

will review an insular area's program description and will approve the description unless the insular area has failed to submit information sufficient to allow HUD to make the necessary determinations required for Sec. 92.61 (b)(4), (b)(6), and (b)(7), or the guidelines under (b)(8) are not satisfactory to HUD, if applicable; or if the level of proposed projects or eligible activities is not within the management capability demonstrated by past performance in housing and community development programs. If the insular area has not submitted information on Sec. 92.61 (b)(4), (b)(6), and (b)(7), or the guidelines under (b)(8) are not satisfactory to HUD, if applicable; or if the level of proposed projects or eligible activities is not within the management capability demonstrated by past performance in housing and community development programs, the insular area may be required to furnish such further information or assurances as HUD may consider necessary to find the program description and certifications satisfactory. The HUD Field Office shall work with the insular area to achieve a complete and satisfactory program description.

(b) Review period. Within thirty days of receipt of the program description, the HUD Field Office will notify the insular area if determinations cannot be made under Sec. 92.61 (b)(4), (b)(6), (b)(7), or (b)(8) with the supporting information submitted, or if the proposed projects or activities are beyond currently demonstrated capability. The insular area will have a reasonable period of time, agreed upon mutually, to submit the necessary supporting information or to revise the proposed projects or activities in its program description.

(c) HOME Investment Partnership Agreement. After HUD Field Office approval under this section, a HOME funds allocation is made by HUD execution of the agreement, subject to execution by the insular area. The funds are obligated on the date HUD notifies the insular area of HUD's execution of the agreement.

Sec. 92.63 Amendments to program description.

An insular area must submit to HUD for approval any substantial change in its HUD-approved program description that it makes and must document any other changes in its file. A substantial change involves a change in the guidelines for resale or recapture (Sec. 92.61(b)(4)), other forms of investment (Sec. 92.61(b)(6)), minority and women business outreach program (Sec. 92.61(b)(7)) or refinancing (Sec. 92.61(b)(8)); or a change in the tenure type of the project or activities; or a funding increase to a project or activity of \$100,000 or 50% (whichever is greater). The HUD Field Office will notify the insular area if its program description, as amended, does not permit determinations to be made under Sec. 92.61 (b)(4), (b)(6), (b)(7), or (b)(8), or if the level of proposed projects or eligible activities is not within the management capability demonstrated by past performance in housing and community development programs, within 30 days of receipt. The insular area will have a reasonable period of time, agreed upon mutually, to submit the necessary supporting information to revise the proposed projects or activities in its program description.

Sec. 92.64 Applicability of requirements to insular areas.

(a) Insular areas are subject to the same requirements in subpart E (Program Requirements), subpart F (Project Requirements), subpart K (Program Administration), and subpart L (Performance Reviews and Sanctions) of this part as participating jurisdictions, except for the following:

(1) Subpart E (Program Requirements): Administrative costs, as described in Sec. 92.207, are eligible costs for insular areas in an amount not to exceed 15 percent of the HOME funds provided to the insular area. The matching contribution requirements in this part do not

apply.

(2) Subpart K (Program Administration):

(i) Section 92.500 (The HOME Investment Trust Fund) does not apply. HUD will establish a HOME account in the United States Treasury for each insular area and the HOME funds must be used for approved activities. A local account must be established for program income. Each insular area may use either a separate local HOME account or a subsidiary account within its general fund (or other appropriate fund) as the local HOME account. HUD will recapture HOME funds in the HOME Treasury account by the amount of:

(A) Any funds that are not committed within 24 months after the last day of the month in which HUD notifies the insular area of HUD's execution of the HOME Investment Partnership Agreement;

(B) Any funds that are not expended within five years after the last day of the month in which HUD notifies the insular area of HUD's execution of the HOME Investment Partnership Agreement; and

(C) Any penalties assessed by HUD under Sec. 92.552.

(ii) Section 92.502 (Program disbursement and information system) applies, except that references to the HOME Investment Trust Fund mean HOME account. In addition, Sec. 92.502(c) does not apply, and instead compliance with Treasury Circular No. 1075 (31 CFR part 205) and 24 CFR 85.21 is required.

(iii) Section 92.503 (Program income, repayments, and recaptured funds) applies, except that the funds may be retained provided the funds are used for eligible activities in accordance with the requirements of this section.

(3) Section 92.504 (Participating jurisdiction responsibilities; written agreements; on-site inspections) applies, except that the written agreement must ensure compliance with the requirements in this section.

(4) Section 92.508 (Recordkeeping) applies with respect to the records that relate to the requirements of this section.

(5) Section 92.509 (Performance reports) applies, except that a performance report is required for the fiscal year allocation only after completion of the approved projects funded by the allocation.

(6) Subpart L (Performance Reviews and Sanctions): Section 92.552 does not apply. Instead, Sec. 92.65 applies.

(b) The requirements of subpart H (Other Federal Requirements) of this part apply as follows: Sec. 92.357 Executive Order 12372 applies as written, and the requirements of the remaining sections which apply to participating jurisdictions are applicable to the insular areas.

(c) Subpart B (Allocation Formula), subpart C (Consortia; Designation and Revocation as a Participating Jurisdiction), subpart D (Submission Requirements), and subpart G (Community Housing Development Organizations) of this part do not apply.

(d) Subpart A (General) applies, except that for the definitions of "commitment", "program income", and "subrecipient", "participating jurisdiction" means "insular area."

Sec. 92.65 Funding sanctions.

Following notice and opportunity for informal consultation, HUD may withhold, reduce or terminate the assistance where any corrective or remedial actions taken under Sec. 92.551 fail to remedy an insular area's performance deficiencies, and the deficiencies are sufficiently substantial, in the judgment of HUD, to warrant sanctions.

Sec. 92.66 Reallocation.

Any HOME funds which are reduced or recaptured from an insular area's allocation and which are not used to increase the allocation amount for one or more of the remaining insular areas as provided in

Sec. 92.60 of this part, will be reallocated by HUD to the States in accordance with the requirements in subpart J for reallocating funds initially allocated to a State.

Subpart C--Consortia; Designation and Revocation of Designation as a Participating Jurisdiction

Sec. 92.100 [Reserved]

Sec. 92.101 Consortia.

(a) A consortium of geographically contiguous units of general local government is a unit of general local government for purposes of this part if the requirements of this section are met.

(1) One or more members of a proposed consortium or an existing consortium whose consortium qualification terminates at the end of the fiscal year, must provide written notification by March 1 to the HUD Field Office of its intent to participate as a consortium in the HOME Program for the following fiscal year. Provided that subsequent deadlines could be met, the Field Office may accept notification at a later date.

(2) The proposed consortium must provide, at such time and in a manner and form prescribed by HUD, the qualification documents, which will include submission of:

(i) A written certification by the State that the consortium will direct its activities to alleviation of housing problems within the State; and

(ii) Documentation which demonstrates that the consortium has executed one legally binding cooperation agreement among its members authorizing one member unit of general local government to act in a representative capacity for all member units of general local government for the purposes of this part and providing that the representative member assumes overall responsibility for ensuring that the consortium's HOME Program is carried out in compliance with the requirements of this part.

(3) Before the end of the fiscal year in which the notice of intent and documentation are submitted, HUD must determine that the consortium has sufficient authority and administrative capability to carry out the purposes of this part on behalf of its member jurisdictions. HUD will endeavor to make its determination as quickly as practicable after receiving the consortium's documentation in order to provide the consortium an opportunity to correct its submission, if necessary. If the submission is deficient, HUD will work with the consortium to resolve the issue, but will not delay the formula allocations.

(b) A metropolitan city or an urban county may be a member of a consortium. A unit of general local government that is included in an urban county may be part of a consortium, only if the urban county joins the consortium. The included local government cannot join the consortium except through participation in the urban county.

(c) A non-urban county may be a member of a consortium. However, the county cannot on its own include the whole county in the consortium. A unit of local government located within the non-urban county that wishes to participate as a member of the consortium must sign the HOME consortium agreement.

(d) If the representative unit of general local government distributes HOME funds to member units of general local government, the representative unit is responsible for applying to

[[Page 563]]

the member units of general local government the same requirements as are applicable to subrecipients.

(e) The consortium's qualification as a unit of general local government continues for a period of three successive Federal fiscal years, or until HUD revokes its designation as a participating jurisdiction, or until an urban county member fails to requalify under the CDBG program as an urban county for a fiscal year included in the consortium's qualification period, or the consortium fails to receive a HOME allocation for the first Federal fiscal year of the consortium's qualification period and does not request to be considered to receive a HOME allocation in each of the subsequent two years. However, if a member urban county's three year CDBG qualification cycle is not the same as the consortium, the consortium may elect a shorter qualification period than three years to synchronize with the urban county's qualification period. During the period of qualification, additional units of general local government may join the consortium, but no included unit of general local government may withdraw from the consortium. See 24 CFR part 91, subpart E, for consolidated plan requirements for consortia, including the requirement that all members of the consortia must be on the same program year.

Sec. 92.102 Participation threshold amount.

(a) To be eligible to become a participating jurisdiction, a unit of general local government must have a formula allocation under Sec. 92.50 that is equal to or greater than \$750,000; or

(b) If a unit of general local government's formula allocation is less than \$750,000, HUD must find:

(1) The unit of general local government has a local PHA and has demonstrated a capacity to carry out the provisions of this part, as evidenced by satisfactory performance under one or more HUD-administered programs that provide assistance for activities comparable to the eligible activities under this part; and

(2) The State has authorized HUD to transfer to the unit of general local government a portion of the State's allocation or the State, the unit of general local government, or both, has made available its own resources such that the sum of the amounts transferred or made available are equal to or greater than the difference between the unit of general local government's formula allocation and \$750,000.

(c) In fiscal years in which Congress appropriates less than \$1.5 billion for this part, \$500,000 is substituted for \$750,000 each time it appears in this section.

Sec. 92.103 Notification of intent to participate.

(a) Not later than 30 days after receiving notice of its formula allocation amount, a jurisdiction must notify HUD in writing of its intention to become a participating jurisdiction.

(b) A unit of general local government that has a formula allocation of less than \$750,000, or less than \$500,000 in fiscal years in which Congress appropriates less than \$1.5 billion for this part, must submit, with its notice, one or more of the following, as appropriate, as evidence that it has met the threshold allocation requirements in Sec. 92.102(b):

(1) Authorization from the State to transfer a portion of its allocation to the unit of general local government;

(2) A letter from the governor or designee indicating that the required funds have been approved and budgeted for the unit of general local government;

(3) A letter from the chief executive officer of the unit of general local government indicating that the required funds have been approved and budgeted.

Sec. 92.104 Submission of a consolidated plan.

A jurisdiction that has not submitted a consolidated plan to HUD must submit to HUD, not later than 90 days after providing notification under Sec. 92.103, a consolidated plan in accordance with 24 CFR part 91.

Sec. 92.105 Designation as a participating jurisdiction.

When a jurisdiction has complied with the requirements of Secs. 92.102 through 92.104 and HUD has approved the jurisdiction's consolidated plan in accordance with 24 CFR part 91, HUD will designate the jurisdiction as a participating jurisdiction.

Sec. 92.106 Continuous designation as a participating jurisdiction.

Once a State or unit of general local government is designated a participating jurisdiction, it remains a participating jurisdiction for subsequent fiscal years and the requirements of Secs. 92.102 through 92.105 do not apply, unless HUD revokes the designation in accordance with Sec. 92.107.

Sec. 92.107 Revocation of designation as a participating jurisdiction.

HUD may revoke a jurisdiction's designation as a participating jurisdiction if:

(a) HUD finds, after reasonable notice and opportunity for hearing as provided in Sec. 92.552(b) that the jurisdiction is unwilling or unable to carry out the provisions of this part, including failure to meet matching contribution requirements; or

(b) The jurisdiction's formula allocation falls below \$750,000 (or below \$500,000 in fiscal years in which Congress appropriates less than \$1.5 billion for this part) for three consecutive years, below \$625,000 (or below \$410,000 in fiscal years in which Congress appropriates less than \$1.5 billion for this part) for two consecutive years, or the jurisdiction does not receive a formula allocation in any one year.

(c) When HUD revokes a participating jurisdiction's designation as a participating jurisdiction, HUD will reallocate any remaining funds in the jurisdiction's HOME Investment Trust Fund established under Sec. 92.500 in accordance with Sec. 92.451.

Subpart D--Submission Requirements

Sec. 92.150 Submission requirements.

In order to receive its HOME allocation, a participating jurisdiction must submit a consolidated plan in accordance with 24 CFR part 91. That part includes requirements for the content of the consolidated plan, the process of developing the consolidated plan, including citizen participation, the submission date, HUD approval, and amendments.

Subpart E--Program Requirements

Sec. 92.200 Private-public partnership.

Each participating jurisdiction must make all reasonable efforts to maximize participation by the private sector in accordance with section 221 of the Act.

Sec. 92.201 Distribution of assistance.

(a) Local. (1) Each local participating jurisdiction must, insofar

as is feasible, distribute HOME funds geographically within its boundaries and among different categories of housing need, according to the priorities of housing need identified in its approved consolidated plan.

(2) The participating jurisdiction may only invest its HOME funds in eligible projects within its boundaries, or in joint projects within the boundaries of contiguous local jurisdictions which serve residents from both jurisdictions.

(b) State. (1) Each State participating jurisdiction is responsible for distributing HOME funds throughout the State according to the State's assessment of the geographical distribution of the housing needs within the State, as identified in the State's approved consolidated plan. The State must distribute HOME funds to rural areas in amounts that take into account the non-metropolitan share of the State's total population and objective measures of rural housing need, such as poverty and substandard housing, as set forth in the State's approved consolidated plan. To the extent the need is within the boundaries of a participating unit of general local government, the State and the unit of general local government shall coordinate activities to address that need.

(2) A State may carry out its own HOME program without active participation of units of general local government or may distribute HOME funds to units of general local government to carry out HOME programs in which both the State and all or some of the units of general local government perform specified program functions. A unit of general local government designated by a State to receive HOME funds from a State is a State recipient.

(3)(i) A State that uses State recipients to perform program functions shall ensure that the State recipients use HOME funds in accordance with the requirements of this part and other applicable laws. The State may require the State recipient to comply with requirements established by the State or may permit the State recipient to establish its own requirements to comply with this part.

(ii) The State shall conduct such reviews and audit of its State recipients as may be necessary or appropriate to determine whether the State recipient has committed and expended the HOME funds in the United States Treasury account as required by Sec. 92.500, and has met the requirements of this part, particularly eligible activities, income targeting, affordability, and matching contribution requirements.

(4) A State and local participating jurisdiction may jointly fund a project within the boundaries of the local participating jurisdiction. The State may provide the HOME funds to the project or it may provide the HOME funds to the local participating jurisdiction to fund the project.

(5) A State may fund projects on Indian reservations located within the State provided that the State includes Indian reservations in its consolidated plan.

Sec. 92.202 Site and neighborhood standards.

(a) General. A participating jurisdiction must administer its HOME program in a manner that provides housing that is suitable from the standpoint of facilitating and furthering full compliance with the applicable provisions of title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d--2000d-4), the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq., E.O. 11063 (3 CFR, 1959-1963 Comp., p. 652), and HUD regulations issued pursuant thereto; and promotes greater choice of housing opportunities.

(b) New rental housing. In carrying out the site and neighborhood requirements with respect to new construction of rental housing, a participating jurisdiction is responsible for making the determination that proposed sites for new construction meet the requirements in 24 CFR 983.6(b).

Sec. 92.203 Income determinations.

(a) The HOME program has income targeting requirements for the HOME program and for HOME projects. Therefore, the participating jurisdiction must determine each family is income eligible by determining the family's annual income.

(1) For families who are tenants in HOME-assisted housing and not receiving HOME tenant-based rental assistance, the participating jurisdiction must initially determine annual income using the method in paragraph (a)(1)(i) of this section. For subsequent income determinations during the period of affordability, the participating jurisdiction may use any one of the following methods in accordance with Sec. 92.252(h):

(i) Examine the source documents evidencing annual income (e.g., wage statement, interest statement, unemployment compensation statement) for the family.

(ii) Obtain from the family a written statement of the amount of the family's annual income and family size, along with a certification that the information is complete and accurate. The certification must state that the family will provide source documents upon request.

(iii) Obtain a written statement from the administrator of a government program under which the family receives benefits and which examines each year the annual income of the family. The statement must indicate the tenant's family size and state the amount of the family's annual income; or alternatively, the statement must indicate the current dollar limit for very low- or low-income families for the family size of the tenant and state that the tenant's annual income does not exceed this limit.

(2) For all other families, the participating jurisdiction must determine annual income by examining the source documents evidencing annual income (e.g., wage statement, interest statement, unemployment compensation statement) for the family.

(b) When determining whether a family is income eligible, the participating jurisdiction must use one of the following three definitions of "annual income":

(1) "Annual income" as defined at 24 CFR 5.609 (except when determining the income of a homeowner for an owner-occupied rehabilitation project, the value of the homeowner's principal residence may be excluded from the calculation of Net Family Assets); or

(2) Annual Income as reported under the Census long-form for the most recent available decennial Census. This definition includes:

(i) Wages, salaries, tips, commissions, etc.;

(ii) Self-employment income from owned non-farm business, including proprietorships and partnerships;

(iii) Farm self-employment income;

(iv) Interest, dividends, net rental income, or income from estates or trusts;

(v) Social Security or railroad retirement;

(vi) Supplemental Security Income, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, or other public assistance or public welfare programs;

(vii) Retirement, survivor, or disability pensions; and

(viii) Any other sources of income received regularly, including Veterans' (VA) payments, unemployment compensation, and alimony; or

(3) Adjusted gross income as defined for purposes of reporting under Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 1040 series for individual Federal annual income tax purposes.

(c) Although the participating jurisdiction may use any of the three definitions of "annual income" permitted in paragraph (b) of this section, to calculate adjusted income it must apply exclusions from income established at 24 CFR 5.611. The HOME rents for very low-income

families established under Sec. 92.252(b)(2) are based on adjusted income. In addition, the participating jurisdiction may base the amount of tenant-based rental assistance on the adjusted income of the family.

(d) (1) The participating jurisdiction must calculate the annual income of the family by projecting the prevailing rate of income of the family at the time the participating jurisdiction determines that the family is income eligible. Annual income shall include income from all family members. Income or asset enhancement derived from the HOME-assisted project shall not be considered in calculating annual income.

(2) The participating jurisdiction is not required to re-examine the family's income at the time the HOME assistance is provided, unless more than six months has elapsed since the participating jurisdiction determined that the family qualified as income eligible.

(3) The participating jurisdiction must follow the requirements in Sec. 5.617 when making subsequent income determinations of persons with disabilities who are tenants in HOME-assisted rental housing or who receive tenant-based rental assistance.

[61 FR 48750, Sept. 16, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 28928, May 28, 1997; 66 FR 6224, Jan. 19, 2001]

Sec. 92.204 Applicability of requirements to entities that receive a reallocation of HOME funds, other than participating jurisdictions.

(a) Jurisdictions other than participating jurisdictions and community housing development organizations receiving competitive reallocations from HUD are subject to the same requirements in subpart E (Program Requirements), subpart F (Project Requirements), subpart K (Program Administration), and subpart L (Performance Reviews and Sanctions) of this part as participating jurisdictions, except for the following:

(1) Subpart E (Program Requirements): the matching contribution requirements in Sec. 92.218 through Sec. 92.221 do not apply.

(2) Subpart K (Program Administration):

(i) Section 92.500 (The HOME Investment Trust Fund) does not apply. HUD will establish a HOME account in the United States Treasury and the HOME funds must be used for approved activities. A local account must be established for program income. HUD will recapture HOME funds in the HOME Treasury account by the amount of:

(A) Any funds that are not committed within 24 months after the last day of the month in which HUD notifies the entity of HUD's execution of the HOME Investment Partnership Agreement;

(B) Any funds that are not expended within five years after the last day of the month in which HUD notifies the entity of HUD's execution of the HOME Investment Partnership Agreement; and

(C) Any penalties assessed by HUD under Sec. 92.552.

(ii) Section 92.502 (Program disbursement and information system) applies, except that references to the HOME Investment Trust Fund mean HOME account and the reference to 24 CFR part 58 does not apply. In addition, Sec. 92.502(c) does not apply, and instead, compliance with Treasury Circular No. 1075 (31 CFR part 205) and 24 CFR 85.21 is required.

(iii) Section 92.503 (Program income, repayments, and recaptured funds) applies, except that program income may be retained provided the funds are used for eligible activities in accordance with the requirements of this section.

(3) Section 92.504 (Participating jurisdiction responsibilities; written agreements; on-site inspections) applies, except that the written agreement must ensure compliance with the requirements in this section.

(4) Section 92.508 (Recordkeeping) applies with respect to the

records that relate to the requirements of this section.

(5) Section 92.509 (Performance reports) applies, except that a performance report is required only after completion of the approved projects.

(b) The requirements in subpart H (Other Federal Requirements) of this part apply as written, except that jurisdictions and community housing development organizations receiving reallocations from HUD must comply with affirmative marketing requirements, labor requirements, and lead-based paint requirements, applicable to participating jurisdictions.

(c) Subpart B (Allocation Formula), subpart C (Consortia; Designation and Revocation of Designation as a Participating Jurisdiction), and subpart G (Community Housing Development Organizations) of this part do not apply.

(d) Subpart A (General) applies, except that for the definitions of commitment, program income, and subrecipient, "participating jurisdiction" means jurisdiction or community housing development organization receiving the competitive reallocation.

Eligible and Prohibited Activities

Sec. 92.205 Eligible activities: General.

(a) Eligible activities. (1) HOME funds may be used by a participating jurisdiction to provide incentives to develop and support affordable rental housing and homeownership affordability through the acquisition (including assistance to homebuyers), new construction, reconstruction, or rehabilitation of non-luxury housing with suitable amenities, including real property acquisition, site improvements, conversion, demolition, and other expenses, including financing costs, relocation expenses of any displaced persons, families, businesses, or organizations; to provide tenant-based rental assistance, including security deposits; to provide payment of reasonable administrative and planning costs; and to provide for the payment of operating expenses of community housing development organizations. The housing must be permanent or transitional housing. The specific eligible costs for these activities are set forth in Secs. 92.206 through 92.209.

(2) Acquisition of vacant land or demolition must be undertaken only with respect to a particular housing project intended to provide affordable housing.

(3) Conversion of an existing structure to affordable housing is rehabilitation, unless the conversion entails adding one or more units beyond the existing walls, in which case, the project is new construction for purposes of this part.

(4) Manufactured housing. HOME funds may be used to purchase and/or rehabilitate a manufactured housing unit, or purchase the land upon which a manufactured housing unit is located. Except for existing, owner-occupied manufactured housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds, the manufactured housing unit must, at the time of project completion, be connected to permanent utility hook-ups and be located on land that is owned by the manufactured housing unit owner or land for which the manufactured housing owner has a lease for a period at least equal to the applicable period of affordability.

(b) Forms of assistance. (1) A participating jurisdiction may invest HOME funds as equity investments, interest-bearing loans or advances, non-interest-bearing loans or advances, interest subsidies consistent with the purposes of this part, deferred payment loans, grants, or other forms of assistance that HUD determines to be consistent with the purposes of this part. Each participating jurisdiction has the right to establish the terms of assistance, subject to the requirements of this part.

(2) A participating jurisdiction may invest HOME funds to guarantee

loans made by lenders and, if required, the participating jurisdiction may establish a loan guarantee account with HOME funds. The HOME funds may be used to guarantee the timely payment of principal and interest or payment of the outstanding principal and interest upon foreclosure of the loan. The amount of the loan guarantee account must be based on a reasonable estimate of the default rate on the guaranteed loans, but under no circumstances may the amount on deposit exceed 20 percent of the total outstanding principal amount guaranteed; except that the account may include a reasonable minimum balance. While loan funds guaranteed with HOME funds are subject to all HOME requirements, funds which are used to repay the guaranteed loans are not.

(c) Minimum amount of assistance. The minimum amount of HOME funds that must be invested in a project involving rental housing or homeownership is \$1,000 times the number of HOME-assisted units in the project.

(d) Multi-unit projects. HOME funds may be used to assist one or more housing units in a multi-unit project. Only the actual HOME eligible development costs of the assisted units may be charged to the HOME program. If the assisted and non-assisted units are not comparable, the actual costs may be determined based on a method of cost allocation. If the assisted and non-assisted units are comparable in terms of size, features and number of bedrooms, the actual cost of the HOME-assisted units can be determined by pro-rating the total HOME eligible development costs of the project so that the proportion of the total development costs charged to the HOME program does not exceed the proportion of the HOME-assisted units in the project.

(e) Terminated projects. A HOME assisted project that is terminated before completion, either voluntarily or otherwise, constitutes an ineligible activity and any HOME funds invested in the project must be repaid to the participating jurisdiction's HOME Investment Trust Fund in accordance with Sec. 92.503(b) (except for project-specific assistance to community housing development organizations as provided in Sec. 92.301(a)(3) and Sec. 92.301(b)(3)).

[61 FR 48750, Sept. 16, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 28928, May 28, 1997]

Sec. 92.206 Eligible project costs.

HOME funds may be used to pay the following eligible costs:

(a) Development hard costs. The actual cost of constructing or rehabilitating housing. These costs include the following:

(1) For new construction, costs to meet the applicable new construction standards of the participating jurisdiction and the Model Energy Code referred to in Sec. 92.251;

(2) For rehabilitation, costs:

(i) To meet the property standards in Sec. 92.251;

(ii) To make essential improvements, including energy-related repairs or improvements, improvements necessary to permit use by persons with disabilities, and lead-based paint activities, as required by part 35 of this title.

(3) For both new construction and rehabilitation, costs:

(i) To demolish existing structures;

(ii) To make utility connections including off-site connections from the property line to the adjacent street; and

(iii) To make improvements to the project site that are in keeping with improvements of surrounding, standard projects. Site improvements may include on-site roads and sewer and water lines necessary to the development of the project. The project site is the property, owned by the project owner, upon which the project is located.

(4) For both new construction and rehabilitation of multifamily rental housing, costs to construct or rehabilitate laundry and community

facilities which are located within the same building as the housing and which are for the use of the project residents and their guests.

(5) Costs to make utility connections or to make improvements to the project site, in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 92.206(a)(3)

(ii) and (iii) are also eligible in connection with acquisition of standard housing.

(b) Refinancing costs. The cost to refinance existing debt secured by housing that is being rehabilitated with HOME funds:

(1) For single-family (1- to 4-family) owner-occupied housing when loaning HOME funds to rehabilitate the housing, if the refinancing is necessary to reduce the overall housing costs to the borrower and make the housing more affordable.

(2) For multifamily projects, when loaning HOME funds to rehabilitate the units if refinancing is necessary to permit or continue affordability under Sec. 92.252. The participating jurisdiction must establish refinancing guidelines and state them in its consolidated plan described in 24 CFR part 91. Regardless of the amount of HOME funds invested, the minimum affordability period shall be 15 years. The guidelines shall describe the conditions under which the participating jurisdictions will refinance existing debt. At minimum, the guidelines must:

(i) Demonstrate that rehabilitation is the primary eligible activity and ensure that this requirement is met by establishing a minimum level of rehabilitation per unit or a required ratio between rehabilitation and refinancing;

(ii) Require a review of management practices to demonstrate that disinvestment in the property has not occurred, that the long term needs of the project can be met and that the feasibility of serving the targeted population over an extended affordability period can be demonstrated;

(iii) State whether the new investment is being made to maintain current affordable units, create additional affordable units, or both;

(iv) Specify the required period of affordability, whether it is the minimum 15 years or longer;

(v) Specify whether the investment of HOME funds may be jurisdiction-wide or limited to a specific geographic area, such as a neighborhood identified in a neighborhood revitalization strategy under 24 CFR 91.215(e)(2) or a Federally designated Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community; and

(vi) State that HOME funds cannot be used to refinance multifamily loans made or insured by any Federal program, including CDBG.

(c) Acquisition costs. Costs of acquiring improved or unimproved real property, including acquisition by homebuyers.

(d) Related soft costs. Other reasonable and necessary costs incurred by the owner or participating jurisdiction and associated with the financing, or development (or both) of new construction, rehabilitation or acquisition of housing assisted with HOME funds. These costs include, but are not limited to:

(1) Architectural, engineering or related professional services required to prepare plans, drawings, specifications, or work write-ups.

(2) Costs to process and settle the financing for a project, such as private lender origination fees, credit reports, fees for title evidence, fees for recordation and filing of legal documents, building permits, attorneys fees, private appraisal fees and fees for an independent cost estimate, builders or developers fees.

(3) Costs of a project audit that the participating jurisdiction may require with respect to the development of the project.

(4) Costs to provide information services such as affirmative marketing and fair housing information to prospective homeowners and tenants as required by Sec. 92.351.

(5) For new construction or rehabilitation, the cost of funding an initial operating deficit reserve, which is a reserve to meet any shortfall in

project income during the period of project rent-up (not to exceed 18 months) and which may only be used to pay project operating expenses, scheduled payments to a replacement reserve, and debt service. Any HOME funds placed in an operating deficit reserve that remain unexpended after the period of project rent-up may be retained for project reserves if permitted by the participating jurisdiction.

(6) Staff and overhead costs directly related to carrying out the project, such as work specifications preparation, loan processing inspections, and other services related to assisting potential owners, tenants, and homebuyers, e.g., housing counseling, may be charged to project costs only if the project is funded and the individual becomes the owner or tenant of the HOME-assisted project. For multi-unit projects, such costs must be allocated among HOME-assisted units in a reasonable manner and documented.

(7) For both new construction and rehabilitation, costs for the payment of impact fees that are charged for all projects within a jurisdiction.

(8) Costs of environmental review and release of funds in accordance with 24 CFR part 58 which are directly related to the project.

(e) Community housing development organization costs. Eligible costs of project-specific assistance are set forth in Sec. 92.301.

(f) Relocation costs. The cost of relocation payments and other relocation assistance to persons displaced by the project are eligible costs.

(1) Relocation payments include replacement housing payments, payments for moving expenses, and payments for reasonable out-of-pocket costs incurred in the temporary relocation of persons.

(2) Other relocation assistance means staff and overhead costs directly related to providing advisory and other relocation services to persons displaced by the project, including timely written notices to occupants, referrals to comparable and suitable replacement property, property inspections, counseling, and other assistance necessary to minimize hardship.

(g) Costs relating to payment of loans. If the HOME funds are not used to directly pay a cost specified in this section, but are used to pay off a construction loan, bridge financing loan, or guaranteed loan, the payment of principal and interest for such loan is an eligible cost only if:

(1) The loan was used for eligible costs specified in this section, and

(2) The HOME assistance is part of the original financing for the project and the project meets the requirements of this part.

[61 FR 48750, Sept. 16, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 28928, May 28, 1997; 64 FR 50224, Sept. 15, 1999]

Sec. 92.207 Eligible administrative and planning costs.

A participating jurisdiction may expend, for payment of reasonable administrative and planning costs of the HOME program, an amount of HOME funds that is not more than ten percent of the fiscal year HOME basic formula allocation plus any funds received in accordance with Sec. 92.102(b) to meet or exceed participation threshold requirements that fiscal year. A State that transfers any HOME funds in accordance with Sec. 92.102(b) must exclude these funds in calculating the amount it may expend for administrative and planning costs. A participating jurisdiction may also use up to ten percent of the program income deposited in its local HOME account during the program year, for administrative and planning costs. Reasonable administrative and planning costs include:

(a) General management, oversight and coordination. Reasonable costs of overall program management, coordination, monitoring, and evaluation.

Such costs include, but are not limited to, necessary expenditures for the following:

(1) Salaries, wages, and related costs of the participating jurisdiction's staff. In charging costs to this category the participating jurisdiction may either include the entire salary, wages, and related costs allocable to the program of each person whose primary responsibilities with regard to the program involves program administration assignments, or the prorated share of the salary, wages, and related costs of each person whose job includes any program administration assignments. The participating jurisdiction may use only one of these methods. Program administration includes the following types of assignments:

(i) Developing systems and schedules for ensuring compliance with program requirements;

(ii) Developing interagency agreements and agreements with entities receiving HOME funds;

(iii) Monitoring HOME-assisted housing for progress and compliance with program requirements;

(iv) Developing agreements and monitoring housing not assisted with HOME funds that the participating jurisdiction designates as a matching contribution in accordance with Sec. 92.219(b) for compliance with applicable program requirements;

(v) Preparing reports and other documents related to the program for submission to HUD;

(vi) Coordinating the resolution of audit and monitoring findings;

(vii) Evaluating program results against stated objectives; and

(viii) Managing or supervising persons whose primary responsibilities with regard to the program include such assignments as those described in paragraphs (a)(1)(i) through (vii) of this section;

(2) Travel costs incurred for official business in carrying out the program;

(3) Administrative services performed under third party contracts or agreements, including such services as general legal services, accounting services, and audit services;

(4) Other costs for goods and services required for administration of the program, including such goods and services as rental or purchase of equipment, insurance, utilities, office supplies, and rental and maintenance (but not purchase) of office space; and

(5) Costs of administering tenant-based rental assistance programs.

(b) Staff and overhead. Staff and overhead costs directly related to carrying out the project, such as work specifications preparation, loan processing, inspections, and other services related to assisting potential owners, tenants, and homebuyers (e.g., housing counseling); and staff and overhead costs directly related to providing advisory and other relocation services to persons displaced by the project, including timely written notices to occupants, referrals to comparable and suitable replacement property, property inspections, counseling, and other assistance necessary to minimize hardship. These costs may be charged as administrative costs or as project costs under Sec. 92.206 (d)(6) and (f)(2), at the discretion of the participating jurisdiction.

(c) Public information. The provision of information and other resources to residents and citizen organizations participating in the planning, implementation, or assessment of projects being assisted with HOME funds.

(d) Fair housing. Activities to affirmatively further fair housing in accordance with the participating jurisdiction's certification under 24 CFR part 91.

(e) Indirect Costs. Indirect costs may be charged to the HOME program under a cost allocation plan prepared in accordance with OMB Circulars A-87 or A-122 as applicable.

(f) Preparation of the consolidated plan. Preparation of the consolidated plan required under 24 CFR part 91. Preparation includes the costs of public hearings, consultations, and publication.

(g) Other Federal requirements. Costs of complying with the Federal requirements in subpart H of this part. Project-specific environmental review costs may be charged as administrative costs or as project costs in accordance with Sec. 92.206(d)(8), at the discretion of the participating jurisdiction.

Sec. 92.208 Eligible community housing development organization (CHDO) operating expense and capacity building costs.

(a) Up to 5 percent of a participating jurisdiction's fiscal year HOME allocation may be used for the operating expenses of community housing development organizations (CHDOs). These funds may not be used to pay operating expenses incurred by a CHDO acting as a subrecipient or contractor under the HOME Program. Operating expenses means reasonable and necessary costs for the operation of the community housing development organization. Such costs include salaries, wages, and other employee compensation and benefits; employee education, training, and travel; rent; utilities; communication costs; taxes; insurance; equipment; materials and supplies. The requirements and limitations on the receipt of these funds by CHDOs are set forth in Sec. 92.300 (e) and (f).

(b) HOME funds may be used for capacity building costs under Sec. 92.300(b).

Sec. 92.209 Tenant-based rental assistance: Eligible costs and requirements.

(a) Eligible costs. Eligible costs are the rental assistance and security deposit payments made to provide tenant-based rental assistance for a family pursuant to this section. Administration of tenant-based rental assistance is eligible only under general management oversight and coordination at Sec. 92.207(a).

(b) General requirement. A participating jurisdiction may use HOME funds for tenant-based rental assistance only if the participating jurisdiction makes the certification about inclusion of this type of assistance in its consolidated plan in accordance with 24 CFR 91.225(d)(1), 91.325(d)(1), or 91.425(a)(2)(i), and specifies local market conditions that lead to the choice of this option.

(c) Tenant selection. The participating jurisdiction must select families in accordance with written tenant selection policies and criteria that are consistent with the following:

(1) Low-income families. Tenant-based rental assistance may only be provided to very low- and low-income families. The participating jurisdiction must determine that the family is very low- or low-income before the assistance is provided. During the period of assistance, the participating jurisdiction must annually determine that the family continues to be low-income.

(2) Federal preferences. At least 50 percent of the families assisted must qualify, or would qualify in the near future without tenant-based rental assistance, for one of the three Federal preferences under section 6(c)(4)(A) of the 1937 Act. These are families that occupy substandard housing (including families that are homeless or living in a shelter for homeless families); families that are paying more than 50 percent of their annual income for rent; or families that are involuntarily displaced. [During FY 1996 and FY 1997, the Federal preferences do not apply.]

(3) Preferences for Individuals with Special Needs. (i) The participating jurisdiction may establish a preference for individuals with special needs. The participating jurisdiction may offer, in conjunction with a tenant-based rental assistance program, particular types of non-mandatory services that may be most appropriate for persons with a special need or a particular disability. Generally, tenant-based

rental assistance and the related services should be made available to all persons with special needs or disabilities who can benefit from such services.

(ii) The participating jurisdiction may also provide a preference for a specific category of individuals with disabilities (e.g., persons with HIV/AIDS or chronic mental illness) if the specific category is identified in the participating jurisdiction's consolidated plan as having unmet need and the preference is needed to narrow the gap in benefits and services received by such persons.

(iii) Preferences cannot be administered in a manner that limits the opportunities of persons on any basis prohibited by the laws listed under 24 CFR 5.105(a). For example, a participating jurisdiction may not determine that persons given a preference under the program are therefore prohibited from applying for or participating in other programs or forms of assistance.

(iv) To the extent that a participating jurisdiction is operating a tenant-based rental assistance program targeted exclusively to individuals with special needs or disabilities or to a specific category of individuals with special needs or disabilities, at least 50% of the individuals must qualify or would qualify in the near future for one of the three Federal preferences as described in paragraph (c)(2) of this section.

(4) Existing tenants in the HOME-assisted projects. A participating jurisdiction may select low-income families currently residing in housing units that are designated for rehabilitation or acquisition under the participating jurisdiction's HOME program without requiring that the family meet the requirements of paragraph (c)(2) of this section. Families so selected may use the tenant-based assistance in the rehabilitated or acquired housing unit or in other qualified housing.

(d) Portability of assistance. A participating jurisdiction may require the family to use the tenant-based assistance within the participating jurisdiction's boundaries or may permit the family to use the assistance outside its boundaries.

(e) Term of rental assistance contract. The term of the rental assistance contract providing assistance with HOME funds may not exceed 24 months, but may be renewed, subject to the availability of HOME funds. The term of the rental assistance contract must begin on the first day of the term of the lease. For a rental assistance contract between a participating jurisdiction and an owner, the term of the contract must terminate on termination of the lease. For a rental assistance contract between a participating jurisdiction and a family, the term of the contract need not end on termination of the lease, but no payments may be made after termination of the lease until a family enters into a new lease.

(f) Rent reasonableness. The participating jurisdiction must disapprove a lease if the rent is not reasonable, based on rents that are charged for comparable unassisted rental units.

(g) Tenant protections. The lease must comply with the requirements in Sec. 92.253 (a) and (b).

(h) Maximum subsidy. (1) The amount of the monthly assistance that a participating jurisdiction may pay to, or on behalf of, a family may not exceed the difference between a rent standard for the unit size established by the participating jurisdiction and 30 percent of the family's monthly adjusted income.

(2) The participating jurisdiction must establish a minimum tenant contribution to rent.

(3) The participating jurisdiction's rent standard for a unit size must be based on:

(i) Local market conditions; or

(ii) For each unit size, may not be less than 80 percent of the published Section 8 Existing Housing fair market rent (in effect when the payment standard amount is adopted) nor more than the fair market

rent or HUD-approved community-wide exception rent (in effect when the participating jurisdiction adopts its rent standard amount). (Community-wide exception rents are maximum gross rents approved by HUD for the Rental Certificate Program under 24 CFR 882.106(a)(3) for a designated municipality, county, or similar locality, which apply to the whole PHA jurisdiction.) A participating jurisdiction may approve on a unit-by-unit basis a subsidy based on a rent standard that exceeds the applicable fair market rent by up to 10 percent for 20 percent of units assisted.

(i) Housing quality standards. Housing occupied by a family receiving tenant-based assistance under this section must meet the requirements set forth in 24 CFR 982.401. The participating jurisdiction must inspect the housing initially and re-inspect it annually.

(j) Security deposits. (1) A participating jurisdiction may use HOME funds provided for tenant-based rental assistance to provide loans or grants to very low- and low-income families for security deposits for rental of dwelling units whether or not the participating jurisdiction provides any other tenant-based rental assistance under this section.

(2) The relevant State or local definition of "security deposit" in the jurisdiction where the unit is located is applicable for the purposes of this part, except that the amount of HOME funds that may be provided for a security deposit may not exceed the equivalent of two month's rent for the unit.

(3) Only the prospective tenant may apply for HOME security deposit assistance, although the participating jurisdiction may pay the funds directly to the tenant or to the landlord.

(4) HOME funds for security deposits may be provided as a grant or as a loan. If they are provided as a loan, the loan repayments are program income to be used in accordance with Sec. 92.503.

(5) Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (f), (g), and (i) of this section are applicable to HOME security deposit assistance, except that income determinations pursuant to paragraph (c)(1) of this section and Housing Quality Standard inspections pursuant to paragraph (i) of this section are required only at the time the security deposit assistance is provided.

(k) Program operation. A tenant-based rental assistance program must be operated consistent with the requirements of this section. The participating jurisdiction may operate the program itself, or may contract with a PHA or other entity with the capacity to operate a rental assistance program. The tenant-based rental assistance may be provided through an assistance contract to an owner that leases a unit to an assisted family or directly to the family. In either case, the participating jurisdiction (or entity operating the program) must approve the lease.

(l) Use of Section 8 assistance. In any case where assistance under section 8 of the 1937 Act becomes available to a participating jurisdiction, recipients of tenant-based rental assistance under this part will qualify for tenant selection preferences to the same extent as when they received the tenant-based rental assistance under this part.

[61 FR 48750, Sept. 16, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 28928, May 28, 1997]

Sec. 92.212 Pre-award costs.

(a) General. Before the effective date of the HOME Investment Partnership Agreement, the participating jurisdiction may incur costs which may be charged to the HOME allocation after the award of the HOME allocation, provided the costs are in compliance with the requirements of this part (including environmental review requirements) and with the statutory and regulatory requirements in effect at the time the costs are charged to the HOME allocation.

(b) Administrative and planning costs. Eligible administrative and

planning costs may be incurred as of the beginning of the participating jurisdiction's consolidated program year (see 24 CFR 91.10) or the date the consolidated plan describing the HOME allocation to which the costs will be charged is received by HUD, whichever is later.

(c) Project costs. Eligible project costs may be incurred during the current program year in an amount not to exceed 25% of the current HOME allocation amount, to be charged to the following year's HOME allocation. Before incurring the pre-award costs, the participating jurisdiction must comply with its citizen participation plan requirements addressing 24 CFR 91.105(b)(2), (4), (5) and (g) (local governments) or 24 CFR 91.115(b)(2), (4), (5) and (f) (States). In lieu of a full action plan, the participating jurisdiction may develop a mini-action plan which describes the proposed pre-award projects and costs in accordance with 24 CFR 91.220(c) and includes, if applicable, 24 CFR 91.220(g)(2) (local governments) or 24 CFR 91.320(c) and, if applicable, 24 CFR 91.320(g)(2) (States). The mini-action plan must state that HOME funding for the project(s) is subject to the future availability of HOME funds. The subsequent action plan (i.e., action plan for the HOME allocation to which the costs will be charged) must also include the use of HOME funds contained in the mini-action plan.

(d) Subrecipient or State recipient costs. The participating jurisdiction may authorize its subrecipient or State recipient to incur pre-award costs in accordance with the requirements of this section. The authorization must be in writing.

(e) Other pre-agreement costs. Pre-agreement costs in excess of the amount set forth in paragraph (c) of this section must be approved, in writing, by the HUD Field Office before the costs are incurred.

Sec. 92.213 [Reserved]

Sec. 92.214 Prohibited activities.

(a) HOME funds may not be used to:

- (1) Provide project reserve accounts, except as provided in Sec. 92.206(d)(5), or operating subsidies;
- (2) Provide tenant-based rental assistance for the special purposes of the existing section 8 program, in accordance with section 212(d) of the Act;
- (3) Provide non-federal matching contributions required under any other Federal program;
- (4) Provide assistance authorized under section 9 of the 1937 Act (annual contributions for operation of public housing);

[[Page 575]]

(5) Carry out activities authorized under 24 CFR part 968 (Public Housing Modernization);

(6) Provide assistance to eligible low-income housing under 24 CFR part 248 (Prepayment of Low Income Housing Mortgages), except that assistance may be provided to priority purchasers as defined in 24 CFR 248.101;

(7) Provide assistance (other than tenant-based rental assistance or assistance to a homebuyer to acquire housing previously assisted with HOME funds) to a project previously assisted with HOME funds during the period of affordability established by the participating jurisdiction in the written agreement under Sec. 92.504. However, additional HOME funds may be committed to a project up to one year after project completion (see Sec. 92.502), but the amount of HOME funds in the project may not exceed the maximum per-unit subsidy amount established under Sec. 92.250.

(8) Pay for the acquisition of property owned by the participating jurisdiction, except for property acquired by the participating

jurisdiction with HOME funds, or property acquired in anticipation of carrying out a HOME project; or

(9) Pay for any cost that is not eligible under Secs. 92.206 through 92.209.

(b) Participating jurisdictions may not charge monitoring, servicing and origination fees in HOME-assisted projects. However, participating jurisdictions may charge nominal application fees (although these fees are not an eligible HOME cost) to project owners to discourage frivolous applications. Such fees are applicable credits under OMB Circular A-87.

[61 FR 48750, Sept. 16, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 28929, May 28, 1997]

Sec. 92.215 Limitation on jurisdictions under court order.

Limitations on the use of HOME funds in connection with litigation involving discrimination or fair housing are set forth in section 224 of the Act.